APPENDIX III

THE LAST MESSAGE OF THE LAST GOVERNOR-GENERAL

Delivered by Hon. Frank Murphy to the Philippine Legislature in in Final Session, November 1

Gentlemen of the Legislature:

Today we are completing another chapter in American-Filipino relations. Upon issuance by the President tomorrow of a proclamation announcing the results of the recent national election, in accordance with section four of the Tydings-McDuffie Act, the office of Governor-General of the Philippine Islands will come to an end. This legislative body likewise will pass into history. The charter of our authority known as the Jones Act, granted by the United States Congress in 1916, under whose liberal and beneficent provisions the Philippine people have governed and been governed for nearly two decades — this great charter of liberal government will terminate. In its place a new charter of government, a constitution framed by the representatives of the Philippine people themselves in pursuance of authority granted by the United States Congress, and a new form of government constituted thereunder, will come into operation. At such a time it seems fitting for us to pause a few moments before final adjournment, to consider the situation of our government and review briefly the significant events and forces that have shaped our course until the present hour.

Under the auspices of the Spanish Empire of the sixteenth century, the foremost nation of Europe, rich, cultured, and powerful, western civilization was brought to the Philippines in the year 1564. During three centuries and a half that followed, the people of these Islands received the impress of a great Spanish culture and become indoctrinated with the Christian religion. Through devout Spanish churchmen and administrators, the Filipino

people became familiar with the institutions and customs and moral conceptions of the

ern world.